

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CONAKR 00352 221448Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-12 /106 W
-----116610 221507Z /53

P R 221321Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4028
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY BAMAKO
AMEMBASSY BANJUL
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY FREETOWN
USINT HAVANA
AMEMBASSY LOME
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MONROVIA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L CONAKRY 0352

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, GV, UR, ET, SO
SUBJECT: GUINEAN COMMENTS ON HORN OF AFRICA

REF: (A) CONAKRY 299 (NOTAL), (B) STATE 043342

1. AMBASSADOR CALLED ON PRIMIN BEAVOGUI FEBRUARY 21
TO DISCUSS GUINEAN POSITION ON HORN OF AFRICA AND
TO CALL GOG'S ATTENTION TO MASSIVE INCREASE OF CUBAN
COMBAT FORCES IN ETHIOPIA. BEAVOGUI STATED THAT,
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PAGE 02 CONAKR 00352 221448Z

AS PRESIDENT TOURE HAD DECLARED ON FEBRUARY 12,
GUINEA FEELS AFRICAN PROBLEMS SHOULD BE SETTLED BY
AFRICANS, PARTICULARLY ETHIOPIAN-SOMALI CONFLICT. ANY
RPT ANY OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE IN CONFLICTS BETWEEN AFRICAN
STATES IS BAD AND GOG IS CONCERNED OVER ARMS BUILD-UP IN HORN.
SOLUTION IN HORN IS NOT WAR BUT PEACEFUL
NEGOTIATIONS. GUINEA HAS SO TOLD SOMALIA AND ETHIOPIA

(BUT HAS NOT RAISED ISSUE WITH SOVIETS OR CUBANS). GUINEA'S VIEW WILL CONTINUE TO BE MADE CLEAR AT OAU AND OTHER FORUMS. AMBASSADOR STRESSED THAT U.S. WAS SHOWING RESTRAINT, NOT FURNISHING ARMS TO EITHER BELLIGERENT. BEAVOGUI SAID GOG HAD NOTED THIS.

2. EARLIER BENGALY DABO (DIRECTOR, MFA POLITICAL AFFAIRS) GAVE DCM MUCH THE SAME INTERPRETATION OF PRESIDENT TOURE'S REMARKS. DABO SAID ANY OUTSIDE OR NON-AFRICAN INTERFERENCE IN AFRICAN DISPUTES MADE THEM MORE DANGEROUS AND HARDER TO SOLVE. TO DCM'S REMARK THAT GOG LOGICALLY THEREFORE MUST FIND SOVIET AND CUBAN ROLE IN HORN AS OBJECTIONABLE AS ANY OTHER, DABO SAID, "THAT'S CORRECT: GUINEA IS AGAINST ALL OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE." DABO SAID GUINEA WAS TRADITIONALLY ON GOOD TERMS WITH BOTH SOMALIS AND ETHIOPIANS, BOTH "PROGRESSIVE REGIMES", WAS ACUTELY DISTURBED BY POLARIZATION OUTSIDE AFRICA, I.E., CHOOSING UP SIDES, BECAUSE GUINEA HAD FRIENDS ON BOTH SIDES (ARABS, SOVIETS/CUBANS).

3. MEANWHILE, MFA SOURCE REPORTS THAT SOVIET CHARGE SOLDATOV ALSO CALLED ON DABO LAST WEEK, UNSUCCESSFULLY SEEKING GUINEAN ASSURANCES THAT PRESIDENT TOURE WAS NOT POINTING FINGER AT USSR IN REF A DECLARATION. ACCORDING TO SOURCE, DABO TOLD ABOVE LINE -- GUINEA OPPOSES "ALL" INTERFERENCE -- AND DID NOT GIVE SOLDATOV EXPLICIT CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 CONAKR 00352 221448Z

ASSURANCES HE SOUGHT. (ON FEBRUARY 13, ONE DAY AFTER TOURE'S SPEECH, SOVIET AMBASSADOR MUSATOV DEPARTED CONAKRY, REPORTEDLY MOSCOW-BOUND.) SOVIET DIPLOMATS HAVE BEEN ACTIVELY CANVASSING DIPLOMATIC CORPS FOR INTERPRETATION OF WHAT TOURE MEANT. FRENCH AMBASSADOR LEWIN AND BETTER-INFORMED AFRICAN DIPLOMATS HERE SEEM CONVINCED TOURE INDEED WAS NOT EXEMPTING SOVIETS.

4. COMMENT: WHILE TOURE COULD HAVE INTENDED TO AND PROBABLY DID WARN INDIRECTLY AGAINST POSSIBLE EGYPTIAN, SAUDI, IRANIAN, U.S., WEST GERMAN, OR OTHER INTERFERENCE IN HORN, SUBSEQUENT COMMENT BY BEAVOGUI AND OTHERS LEADS US TO CONCLUDE THAT TOURE MEANT EVERY BIT AS MUCH TO DEPLORE EXTENT OF SOVIET AND CUBAN INVOLVEMENT. GUINEAN CADRES SO UNDERSTAND HIM. AS ONE GOG OFFICIAL PUT IT, PRESIDENT IS SICK OF "WHITE MEN STEPPING IN AND SETTling AFRICANS' BUSINESS FOR THEM" EVERY TIME CONFLICT ARISES. IN THIS INTERPRETATION, TOURE'S AFRICAN NATIONALIST FEELINGS -- "WHAT'S GOOD FOR AFRICA" -- ARE IN CONTRADICTION TO HIS LONGSTANDING TIES WITH CUBANS AND SOVIETS. HORN IS ACUTE DILEMMA BECAUSE GUINEA'S FUTURE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MORE AND MORE LOOKS TO FINANCING BY CONSERVATIVE ARABS

(WHO ARE SOMALI-BACKERS) FOR REALIZATION, YET
SOVIETS AND CUBANS ARE HECTORING GOG FROM OPPOSITE
DIRECTION.
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